

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 03117 221018Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /122 W

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3839

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 3117

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NL, NATO

SUBJECT: MOD VREDELING'S CONVERSATION AT BERGEN WITH
SECDEF SCHLESINGER: "REVERSE BREZHNEV DOCTRINE"

REF: THE HAGUE 2976

1. ON JUNE 20 MOD VREDELING ASSURED PARLIAMENT THAT
ANY IDEA OF MILITARY INTERVENTION IN GREECE HAD BEEN FAR
FROM HIS MIND WHEN HE SUGGESTED "A KIND OF INVERTED
BREZHNEV DOCTRINE" FOR NATO IN DISCUSSION WITH SECDEF
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PAGE 02 THE HA 03117 221018Z

SCHLESINGER. HE SAID HE HAD INFORMED SECDEF OF HIS

CONCERN ABOUT SITUATION IN GREECE AND DIFFICULTY OF DEFENDING GREEK MEMBERSHIP IN NATO UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, ADDING THIS WAS NOT ONLY A EUROPEAN BUT AN AMERICAN PROBLEM AS WELL BECAUSE US WAS IN POSITION TO EXERT PRESSURE ON GREEK REGIME TO PROMOTE RETURN TO DEMOCRACY.

2. VREDELING SAID SECDEF HAD HAD UNDERSTANDING FOR THIS POSITION BUT FELT US PRESSURE WOULD SOON BE INTERPRETED AS INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. "I THEN ARGUED THAT IT SHOULD BE A COMMON CONCERN FOR COUNTRIES OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE IF DEMOCRACY WAS TRAMPLED UPON IN ONE OF THEM. IN THIS CONNECTION I MENTIONED THE IDEA OF JOINTLY EXERTING THE NECESSARY POLITICAL PRESSURE AND WONDERED WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO ARRIVE AT A COMMON STANDPOINT ON THIS MATTER".

3. VREDELING EMPHASIZED HE HAD USED TERM "A KIND OF REVERSED BREZHNEV DOCTRINE" ONLY IN THIS CONTEXT AND THAT SECDEF HAD NOT MISUNDERSTOOD HIM. SECDEF HAD CALLED IT " AN INTERESTING IDEA WHICH HE WOULD THINK OVER". VREDELING ADMITTED THAT REFERENCE TO BREZHNEV DOCTRINE WAS NOT "THE MOST FORTUNATE EXAMPLE WHERE IT CONCERED DEFENSE AGAINST ANTI-DEMOCRATIC FORCES."

4. FONMIN VAN DER STOEL, JUST BACK FROM OTTAWA MINISTERIAL, SAID IDEA IN VREDELING'S MIND HAD NOT BEEN COMPARABLE IN ANY WAY WITH BREZHNEV DOCTRINE WHICH HE CALLED "DIRECT VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION".
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